
FIBULAE FROM LYCIA (SOUTH-WESTERN TÜRKIYE)

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*Per il 79esimo compleanno
della signora Mariella BUORA.*

ABSTRACT

This paper focuses on nine fibulae currently housed in the Museum of Lycian Civilisations in Demre (ancient Myra), in south-western Türkiye. These finds were transferred from Antalya Archaeological Museum to the recently inaugurated museum in Lycia, and none of them comes from documented excavations. They belong to the Iron Age (cat. nos. 1–7) and the Roman period (cat. nos. 8–9). Their significance lies in the fact that fibulae are scarcely attested in scholarly literature for this area.

RÉSUMÉ : FIBULES DE LYCIE (SUD-OUEST DE LA TURQUIE)

Cet article se concentre sur neuf fibules trouvées au Musée des civilisations lyciennes de Demre (ancienne Myra) dans le sud-ouest de la Turquie. Ces découvertes ont été transférées du musée archéologique d'Antalya au musée récemment ouvert en Lycie, et aucune d'entre elles ne provient de fouilles documentées. Elles datent de l'âge du fer (cat. n° 1-7) et de la période romaine (cat. n° 8-9). Leur importance réside dans le fait que les fibules sont presque totalement absentes de la littérature scientifique dans ce domaine.

KEYWORDS: Fibulae, Demre, Antalya, Lycia, south-western Anatolia, Türkiye, Phrygian fibulae, Roman fibulae, museum studies, classical archaeology.

MOTS-CLÉS : Fibules, Demre, Antalya, Lycie, Anatolie sud-ouest, Turquie, fibules phrygiennes, fibules romaines, études muséologiques, archéologie classique.

Introduction: Fibulae in Lycia

The recently inaugurated Museum of Lycian Civilizations at Demre, exhibits since 2023, finds from the region comprised between the borders of Demre (ancient Myra), Kaş (ancient Antiphellus), Finike (ancient Phoenix) and Kumluca districts, in the province of Antalya (i.e., ancient territories of Lycia), in south-western Türkiye. The artefacts originate from the archaeological excavations in some Lycian sites, as well as from other sources such as donations, purchases or seizures, belonging formerly to the Archaeological Museum of Antalya, from where were transferred to this recently established museum in Demre (Fig. 1).¹

Since the Iron Age, fibulae were used in Lycia, on the Teke Peninsula of Mediterranean Türkiye: Herodotus notices that the Milyae, i.e. inhabitants of Milyas, a mountainous landscape in the northern part of the successor kingdom of Lycia, as well as southern Pisidia, and part of eastern Phrygia, wore clothes fastened with brooches.² However, the number of published fibulae from Lycia regardless of chronology is small (cf. Table 1 below).

Some Iron Age fibulae have also entered in the dedicated literature through Ertuğrul Caner's publication from 1983: a fibula from the vicinity of Korkuteli, of the variant Caner H II, 6, has been dated to the end of the 8th or the first half of the 7th century BC (Fig. 2a–b).³ Three fibulae come from Karaburun mound IV, one of the Caner A I, 2 shape,

¹ This was done by two written approvals of the Turkish General Directorate of Monuments and Museums, numbered as E2380868 and dated to 18th of September 2015 as well as numbered as 180662 and dated to 19th of April 2022.

² Herodotus VII, 77. See also Hall 1986, 143, note 8; and Podestà 2022, 16, note 3, 28ff.

³ Caner 1983, 124, no. 761.

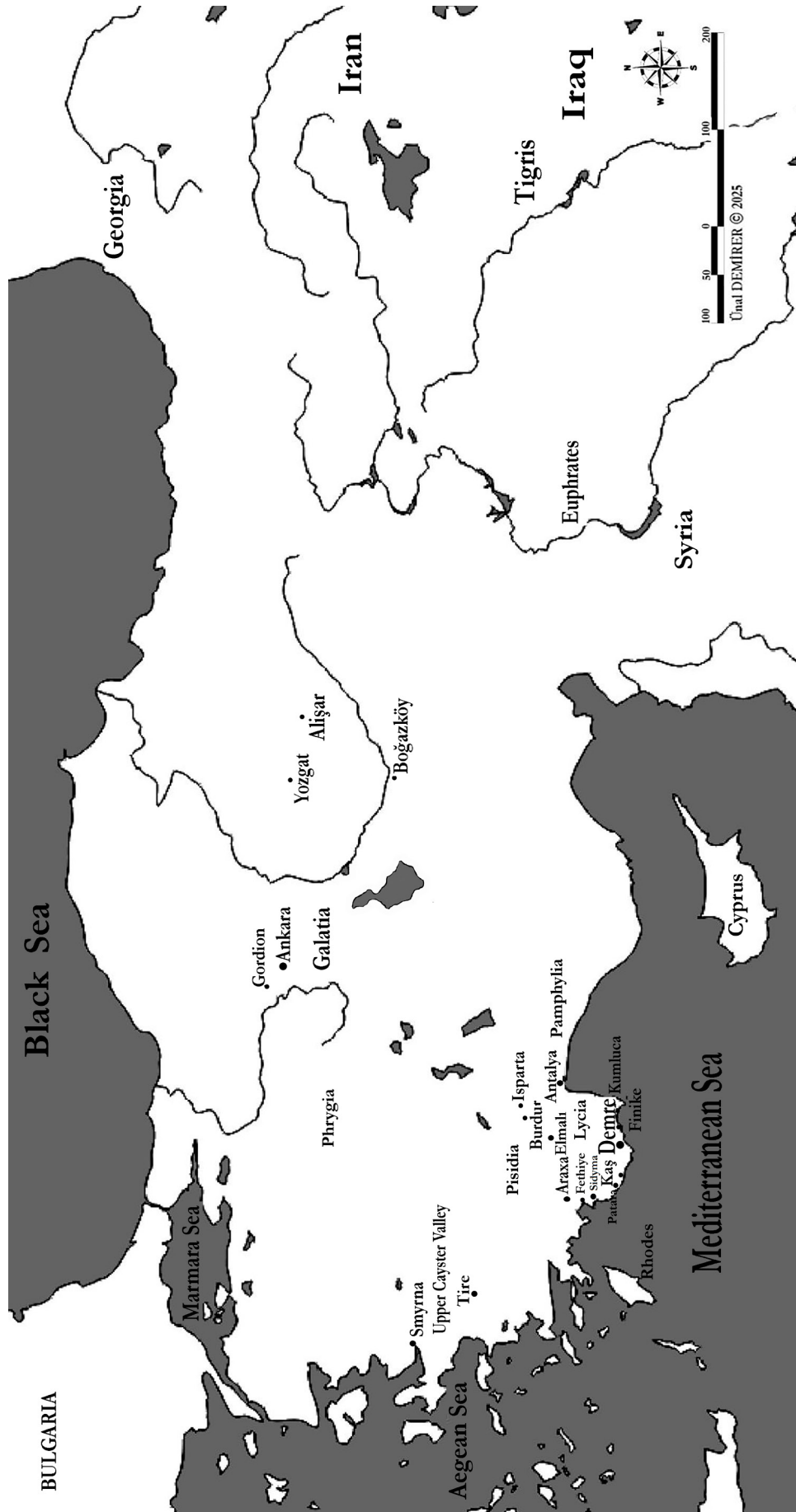


Fig. 1. Sites in Anatolia to which reference is made in the text (drawn by Ü. Demirer, 2025).

Table 1: Iron Age fibulae from Lycia, including the nine fibulae and a fibula from the Upper Cayster Valley, Izmir treated in this paper.

Find-spot or museum	Type	Dating	Our figure number	Remarks
Xanthus, Building H	–	–	–	
Limyra, Tomb 88	–	Late Classical – Early Hellenistic ?	–	
Korkuteli	Caner H II, 6	725/650	2a	
Karaburun, tumulus IV	Caner A I, 2	800/725	2b	Lycian derivation
Karaburun, tumulus IV	Caner A IV, 4	–	2c	Lycian derivation, widely used
Karaburun, tumulus IV	Caner H 1	–	2d	Phrygian
Elmalı/Bayındır, tumulus B	Caner A I, 2	800/725	3a	
Elmalı/Bayındır, tumulus B	Caner A I, 2	800/725	3b	
Elmalı/Bayındır, tumulus B	Caner A I, 2	800/725	–	
Elmalı/Bayındır, tumulus C	Caner F 3	750/700	3c	
Elmalı/Bayındır, tumulus C	Caner F 3	750/700	–	
Elmalı/Bayındır, tumulus C	Caner F 3	750/700	–	
Elmalı/Bayındır, tumulus C	Caner F 3	750/700	–	
Elmalı/Bayındır, tumulus D	–	–	–	
Elmalı/Bayındır, tumulus D	Caner A IV, 1	725/700	4a	
Elmalı/Bayındır, tumulus D	Caner H 1	700/650	4b	
Elmalı/Bayındır, tumulus D	Caner M I, 1	700/600	4c	
Elmalı/Bayındır tumulus I	–	–	–	
Museum of Fethiye, acc. no. 8.3.1991	Caner A I, 2	800/725	5a	
Museum of Fethiye, acc. no. 8.6.1991	Caner A I, 2	800/725	5b	
Museum of Fethiye, acc. no. 8.1.1991	Caner A II, 2	800/725	5c	
Museum of Fethiye, acc. no. 8.2.1991	Caner A I, 2	800/725	5d	
Museum of Fethiye, acc. no. 8.5.1991	Caner F 3	750/700	5e	
Archaeological Museum of Izmir	Caner D, 2	600/500	5f	
Araxa near Sidyma?	Caner A III, 2	–	6a	
Araxa near Sidyma?	Caner A III, 2	–	6b	
Araxa near Sidyma?	Caner A III, 2	–	6c	
RGZM	Caner gr. 5, var. S 1	–	6d	
RGZM	Caner gr. 2	750/500	6e	Cypriot type
Demre	Caner J I, var. 1	700/500 ?	7a–b	
Demre	Caner E 1	800/600	8a–b	
Demre	Caner F 3	750/700	10a–b	
Demre	Caner H 1	700/?	11a–b	
Demre	Pedde B 2.3	800/700	12a–b	
Demre	Caner V, 2	750/600	15a–b	
Demre	Pedde B 3	750/600	17–18	

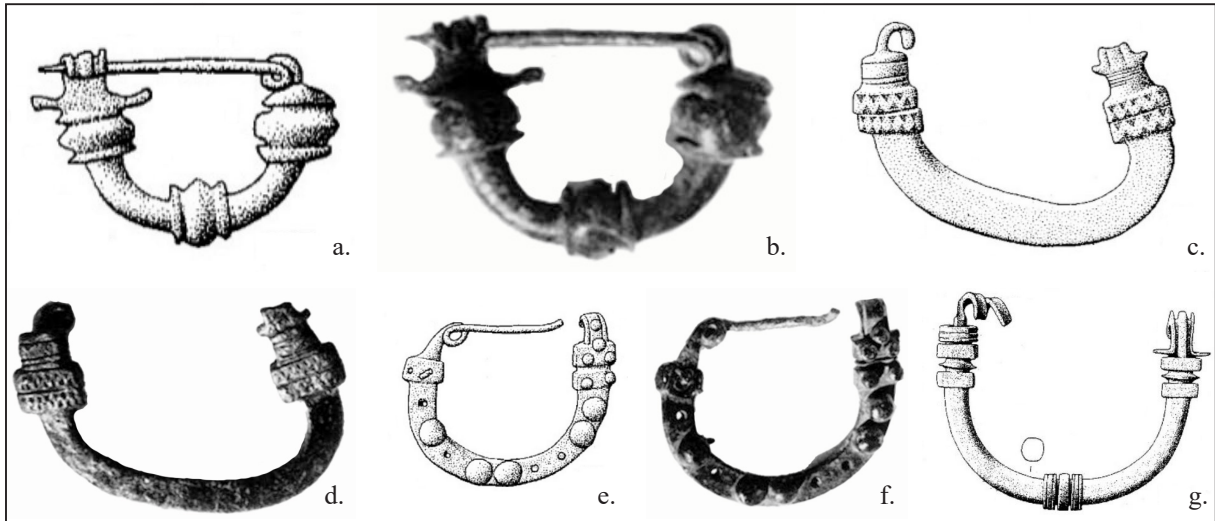


Fig. 2a–g. Three fibulae from the Tumulus IV of Karaburum and one from Korkuteli (after Caner 1983: a–b. No. 687; c–d. No. 188; e–f. No. 422; g. No. 761).

considered as a Lycian derivation (Fig. 2c–d),⁴ one of the Caner A IV, 4 type, used for a long time, with traces of ancient repairs, also considered as a Lycian derivation (Fig. 2e–f)⁵ and, finally, a third fibula, a Phrygian one, of the Caner H 1 type (Fig. 2g).⁶ Several tumuli at Bayındır, located ca. 6 km northeast of Elmalı, 120 km north-west of Antalya and 101 km north of Demre, revealed a large number of fibulae of the Iron Age of Phrygian derivation or “Phrygian type” (Figs 3–4).⁷ Also, a short paper by two of the present authors is dealing with five 8th century BC fibulae from Fethiye, on the Lycian-Carian borderline, including a further fibula found in Bayındır, in Upper Cayster Valley (Figs 5a–f).⁸ Moreover, Catherine M. Draycott recalls a fibula found within the Building H at Xanthus, ancient capital of Lycia, which is today curated at the Archaeological Museum of Antalya.⁹ A most probably Late Classical–Early Hellenistic bronze fibula has been found in the Necropolis V at Limyra.¹⁰



Fig. 3a–b. Two fibulae from the Tumulus B from Elmalı-Bayındır (after Yener 2022, 424, figs. 3: 4–5); c. Fibula from the Tumulus C from Elmalı-Bayındır (after Yener 2022, 428, fig. 5/14).

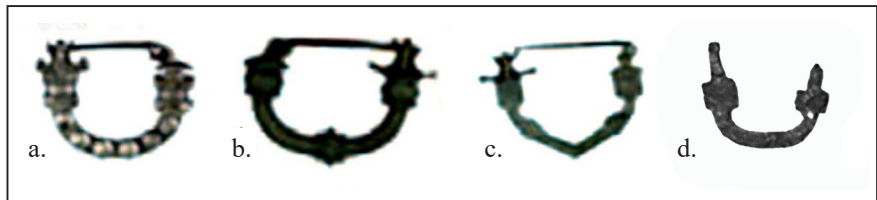


Fig. 4a–c. Three fibulae from the Tumulus D from Elmalı-Bayındır (after Yener 2022, 436, figs 11/ 11–13); d. Fibula from the Tumulus I from Elmalı-Bayındır (after Yener 2022, 446, fig. 12/10).

⁴ Mellink 1972, 262, Pl. 56/8; Caner 1983, 57, no. 188.

⁵ Mellink 1972, 262, Pl. 56/8; Caner 1983, 80, no. 422.

⁶ Mellink 1972, 262, Pl. 56/8; Caner 1983, 115, no. 687. All three are dated by Caner to the first half of the 7th century BC, while Machteld Johanna Mellink dated it to the 6th century BC.

⁷ Yener 2022, 460, 424–425, cat. nos. 2–4; 427, 433, cat. nos. 19–22; 435, 437–438; 441, cat. nos. 11–15; 444, cat. no. 2; 448, cat. no. 1.

⁸ Buora and Laflı 2023.

⁹ Draycott 2015, 134.

¹⁰ Blakolmer 2000, 84 (excavated in the Tomb 88 with ceramic finds from the Late Classical and Early Hellenistic periods).

While the chronology for fibulae in Türkiye established by Caner is based upon a stylistic sequence that is generally still valid, he dealt primarily with fibulae from Central Anatolia.¹¹ He published only six specimens from Antalya or its surroundings, reproduced here in Fig. 6: three fibulae illustrated here at Figs 6a–c which are perhaps from Araxa near Sidyma (mod. Ören in Fethiye), have been designated as variant A III, 2, and considered to be the production of a workshop that distributed its products in the area between Antalya and Burdur, i.e., Pamphylia, Lycia and Pisidia, in the last quarter of the 8th or the beginning of the 7th century BC.¹² The one illustrated on Fig. 6d, which is now curated in Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum in Mainz (RGZM) and belongs to the group of the variant J II,1, spread over a large territory in the first half of the 7th century BC.¹³ No. 1171A (Fig. 6e), which is conserved in RGZM as well, belongs to the Caner group 5, precisely the type S 1, with a double pin and removable plate. This type of fibulae was probably produced in the royal workshops of Gordion¹⁴ in the last quarter of the 8th century BC,¹⁵ and should have been produced for dignitaries.¹⁶ The fibula illustrated at Fig. 6f, of the van Osten I a type, is considered by Caner to be of Cypriot type.¹⁷

Only few Hellenistic and Roman fibulae are known from Lycia in scholarly literature: two Late Hellenistic–Early Roman fibulae were excavated in Patara.¹⁸ Another fibula from the Archaeological Museum of Antalya, of the Aucissa type, was published by Michel Feugère already in 1985 (Fig. 22).¹⁹

In this paper the focus are nine fibulae among these transferred items, all of which were acquisitions from local tradesmen active in the region. We do not claim that this is a comprehensive account of

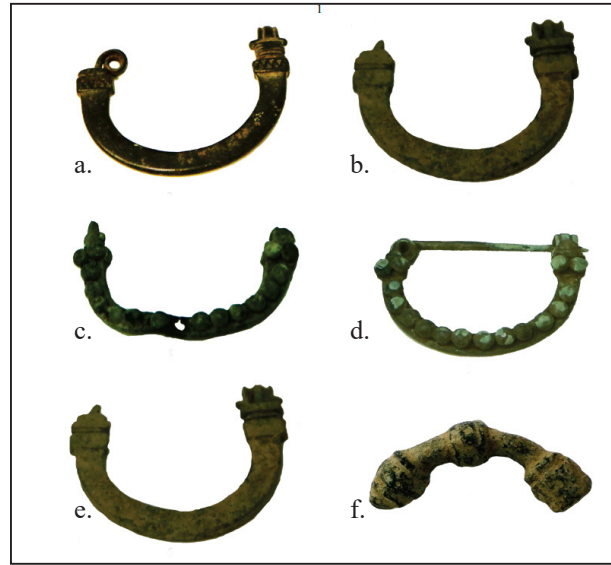


Fig. 5a–f. Five fibulae in the Museum of Fethiye and one from Bayındır in the upper Cayster Valley; a. Acc. no. 8.3.1991; b. Acc. no. 8.6.1991; c. Acc. no. 8.1.1991; d. Acc. no. 8.2.1991; e. Acc. no. 8.5.1991; f. Archaeological Museum of Izmir (after Buora and Laflı 2022, 298, figs 2–7).

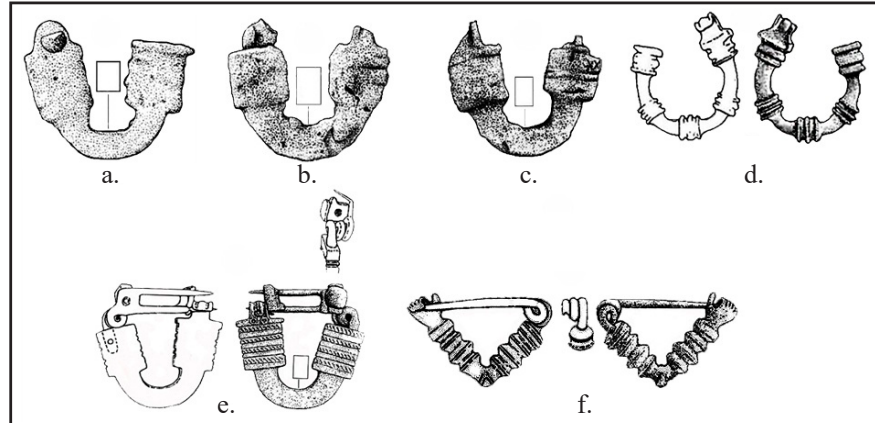


Fig. 6a–f. Five fibulae from the province of Antalya published in Caner 1983: a. No. 278; b. No. 281; c. No. 280; d. no. 1171; e. no. 1200 D.

¹¹ Caner addressed the problem of relative chronology of Iron Age fibulae in Asia Minor establishing through stylistic analysis a century-by-century sequence for their production or use. While his chronology is problematic for some certain periods, his sequence still provides a basis for their relative chronology. In our opinion, the best that we can achieve today is a relative chronology of fibulae in Türkiye in quarter-century spans.

¹² Caner 1983, 68–69.

¹³ Caner 1983, 142–145.

¹⁴ Caner 1983, 168.

¹⁵ Caner 1983, 174.

¹⁶ Caner 1983, 170.

¹⁷ Caner 1983, 183.

¹⁸ Şahin 2018, 8–9; 42–44; 93; 97–98; 145–146, cat. nos. B38–39, pl. 11, figs B38–39, pl. 29, figs B38–39. The ones published from the St. Nicholas Church at Demre, i.e., e.g., Bulgurlu 2005, 118, (“needle”); Ötügen 2006, 299, 311, fig. 3, are not fibulae.

¹⁹ Feugère 1985, 318, fig. 44.

all the fibulae in this new museum, as it is a selected corpus; the selection of fibulae was done based on primary typological interest.

In this corpus the entry for each find is given as completely as possible with at least the following information included: catalogue number in boldface, reference to images (within parentheses), the relevant accession numbers, material, its characteristics, measurements (respectively height, width and thickness, all in millimetres), state of preservation, typological description if there is any discrepancy, comparanda listed in some main publications where applicable, a date, and references if they were previously published. Detailed physical descriptions of some objects are offered for two reasons: the generally poor state of photographs, which obscures important details in their typology and decoration. Because of the conditions in the museum, some of the images are unfortunately blurry and skewed.

Catalogue of the nine fibulae in the Museum of Lycian Civilizations at Demre

Cat. no 1. Fibula type Caner J I, var. 1 (Figs 7a–b).

Acc. no. 2022-653; formerly 2007/285 (A).

Acquired from Mr Hasan Bilgin, on 19th of November 2007, for 30 YTL (= \$US 23) and registered by Mrs Aynur Tosun on 25th of November 2007.²⁰

W., 30 mm, H., 22 mm; Th., 7 x 4 x 1 mm.

Damaged on the left end. Some corrosion on the pin and in the body.

Variant Caner J I, 1.

While we are sure that this type of fibulae appeared at the end of the 8th or the beginning of the 7th century BC, and was probably still used in the 6th century BC, the end of its production and use is not certain, since fibulae of this type have also been found in very late contexts, i.e., 4th century BC, in which, however, they could have ended up, either through a burial, or for some other reasons that are not known to us.

Of the 62 fibulae of this type published by Caner, only 10% come from outside Gordion, two of which are from Boğazköy.²¹



Fig. 7. Fibula from Demre, cat. no. 1, acc. no. 2022-653 (photo. by Ü. Demirer, 2025).

Cat. no. 2. Fibula Caner type E I (Figs 8a–b).

Acc. no. 2022-169; formerly 8.10.78 (A).

Acquired from Mr Ömer Selçuk Gür (Antalya) on 15th of June 1978 for 150 TL (= \$US 6).²²

W., 29 mm, H., 32 mm.

Fibula of the Blinkenberg type XII, 6, Caner type E I. Bow in rounded profile, thickened in the centre, terminating with two large elements of quadrangular section and profiled disks. Hand-shaped catchplate. The fibula is intact.

Caner brings only two examples from Gordion for comparison, illustrated here as Figs 9a–b and two others from Pherae (Fig. 9c), which is lying just south of the road between Larissa and the Gulf of Pagasai in Thessaly, and from the sanctuary of Artemis Orthia (Fig. 9d), an Archaic site devoted in Classical times to Artemis in the Greek city-state of Sparta. The latter reveals a different shape, to be understood as a Greek version of the Phrygian type. According to Caner, the Phrygian fibulae cannot be dated properly: on the basis of the specimens from Greece, a dating between the 8th and 7th century BC can be proposed. A somewhat similar specimen from Troy was already excavated by Heinrich Schliemann (Fig. 9e),



Fig. 8. Fibula from Demre, cat. no. 2, acc. no. 2022-169 (photo. by Ü. Demirer, 2025).

²⁰ Records from the inventory registry book of the Museum Directorate of Antalya, page 113.

²¹ Caner 1983, 125–129, nos. 766–827.

²² Records from the inventory registry book of the Regional Museum Directorate of Antalya, sheet no. 15979.

published by Christian Blinkenberg²³ and corresponds to the Caner type F,3. However, the fibula illustrated here at Fig. 9f, which is curated at the Bayerisches Nationalmuseum in Munich (BNM) and published by Blinkenberg as his type XII, 6, has a differently shaped bow towards the ends.

Comparanda. Blinkenberg 1926, 212, figs. 235–236; Droop 1929, 198–199, pl. 84b; Kilian 1975, no. 1725; Caner 1983, 97–98, nos. 553–554.

From the middle to the end of the 8th until the 6th century BC.

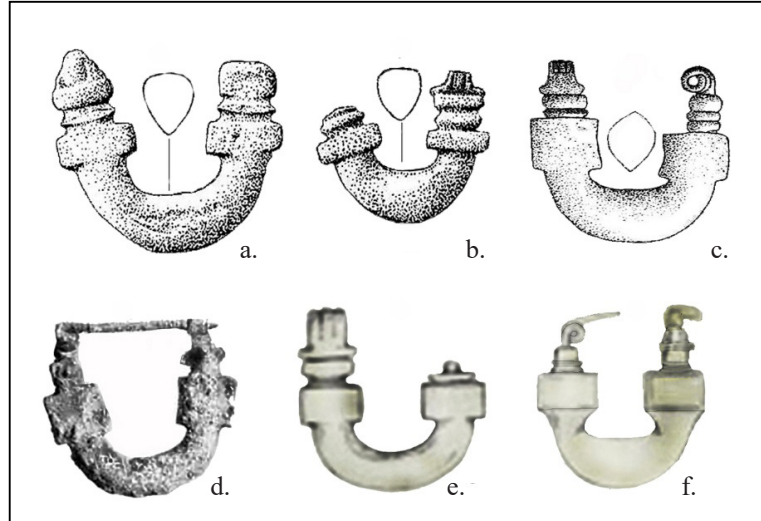


Fig. 9a–b. Similar fibulae to cat. no. 2: a–b. From Gordion.

Cat. no. 3. Fibula type Caner Group F, variant F, 3 (Figs 10a–b).

Acc. no. 2022-168; formerly 5.10.78 (A).

Acquired from Mr Ömer Selçuk Gür (Antalya) with cat. no. 2 on 15th of June 1978 for 150 TL (= \$US 6).²⁴ W., 31 mm, H., 27 mm.

Type Blinkenberg XII, 5; Caner Group F, variant F, 3. Typical feature of this group is the presence of elements with large rectangular sections towards the two terminations. Made in a single piece.

From the middle to the end of the 8th century BC.²⁵



Fig. 10. Fibula from Demre, cat. no. 3, acc. no. 2022-168 (photo. by Ü. Demirer, 2025).

Cat. no. 4. Small silver fibula of the Caner H 1 type (Figs 11a–b).

Acc. no. 2022-768; formerly 2012/54 (A) (2429).

Confiscation on 10th of May 2012, and registered by Mrs Hülya Yalçınsoy on 18th of June 2012.²⁶

W., 37 mm, H., 25 mm; Th., 10 x 6 mm.

Partially damaged with small missing parts. Traces of encrustations on the node of the central part of the arch with a circular section.

Large disc, flanked by two smaller and thinner ones in the centre. At each end another larger disk, preceded by a smaller and thinner one, before the shaped bracket, and on the other side large disk flanked by two smaller and thinner ones, before the start of the spring. Made in one piece.

This type of fibulae is dated to the beginning of the 7th century BC, as typologically it is similar to the fibulae found in the mound S-1 and mound I of Gordion which are of silver like ours.²⁷



Fig. 11. Fibula from Demre, cat. no. 4, acc. no. 2022-768 (photo. by Ü. Demirer, 2025).

²³ Blinkenberg 1926, 212, fig. 235.

²⁴ Records from the inventory registry book of the Regional Museum Directorate of Antalya, sheet no. 15918.

²⁵ Cf. Caner 1983, 104–105, cat. nos. 595–614.

²⁶ Records from the inventory registry book of the Museum Directorate of Antalya, page 64.

²⁷ Caner 1983, 113–116, cat. nos. 651–697c.

Cat. no. 5. Fibula group B2.3 of Pedde (Figs 12a–b).

Acc. no. 2022-87; formerly 2015/145 (A).

Acquired from Mr Mehmet Atıcı on 31th of August 2015 for 60 TL (= \$US 2) and registered by Mr Süleyman Atalay on 16th (or 28th) of December 2015.²⁸

W., 72 mm, H., 51 mm.

Fibula with semicircular arch decorated by eleven biconical pearls, four-winding springs and a trapezoidal, elongated, smooth terminal part, i.e., “Block” in German scholarly literature, before the catchplate.

Complete specimen in good condition. The pin is slightly deformed.

The specimen is cast in one piece. It belongs to the type XIII 3 of the Blinkenberg and to the type I, 4 of the Stronach classification²⁹. In Pedde 2000 it fits into the B2.3 group, which is remarkably widespread in north-western Syria, but also present in Aššur, the capital of the Neo-Assyrian Empire (911–609 BC) near the Tigris River. Based on its diffusion, Friedhelm Pedde argues that this group, which is not present in the Levant, constitutes an Assyrian response to the Levantine fibulae of his group B2.1.³⁰ This type is not isolated in Türkiye, as it can be compared to a fibula curated in the Museum of Tire in the upper Cayster Valley (Fig. 13a)³¹ and to another fibula in the Archaeological Museum of Rhodes (Fig. 13b), published by Sapouna Sakellarakis.³² In these two cases it is clearly visible how the pearls are spaced apart and out, and the enlargement of the central pearl, which is present in the Phrygian fibulae, is missing.



Fig. 12. Fibula from Demre, cat. no. 5, acc. no. 2022-87 (photo. by Ü. Demirer, 2025).

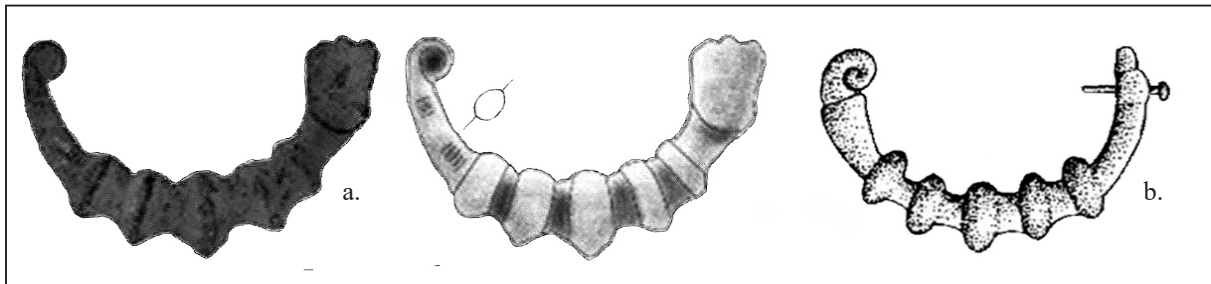


Fig. 13a–b. Similar fibulae to cat. no. 5, a. In the Museum of Tire, b. Archaeological Museum of Rhodes.

The present substantially intact fibula from Demre suggests that it was most probably placed in a burial. According to Pedde in the city of Aššur 110 of 700 excavated burials contained fibulae.³³ When a change in clothing became necessary, with the adoption of looser clothes, which needed to be artistically draped and held together not with stitching but with the use of fibulae, the same fibulae were also placed in the tombs.

The presence of these fibulae would probably reveal contacts with the Assyrian area, probably during the 8th century BC, if it was locally found in Lycia. The distribution of these fibulae is presented at Fig. 14.

The fact that the pearls are not accompanied by lateral discs indicates the archaic nature of the fibula. That the type first appeared in the 9th century BC, as specimens found in Stratum VIII of Hazor in southern Levant would reveal according to the excavators, is accepted by Pedde.³⁴ Furthermore, in a subsequent article in 2018, Pedde dates the first appearance of these fibulae in the Assyrian area to the 8th century BC.³⁵

²⁸ Caner 1983, 31.

²⁹ Stronach 1959, 188.

³⁰ Pedde 2000, p. 130.

³¹ Erdan 2020, fig. 1, no. 4.

³² Sapouna-Sakellarakis 1978, 55, no. 255.

³³ Pedde 2018, 354.

³⁴ On the dating of stratum VIII, see Sandhaus 2013, 110–111.

³⁵ Pedde 2018, 354.



Fig. 14. Distribution of the type Pedde B2.3 with new entries (drawn by Ü. Demirer, 2025, after Pedde 2000, 141).

Cat. no. 6. Fibula of type Caner V, group 2 (Figs 15a–b).

Acc. no. 2022-341; formerly 17.21.98 (13766).

Confiscation from C. Özden on 21st of December, 1998.³⁶

W., 25 mm, H., 17 mm; Th., 10 mm.

Type van Osten I a, Caner type V, group 2.³⁷ It falls into the C1.2 group of Pedde;³⁸ its dating is then discussed by Oscar White Muscarella, who considers it rather an Aegean type.³⁹

Triangular fibula, like others of the same type, but smaller in size. The specific character is given by the emphasis of the central angle of the arc, here rendered with a semicircular crown with three concentric median ribs, which surround a smooth trapezoidal part outlined by raised lines.

This type of fibulae is attested so far by only about forty examples, three quarters of which come from the excavations of Alişar in Yozgat, and is widespread in central Anatolia (cf. Fig. 16).⁴⁰

Its dating ranges from the mid-8th to the 7th century BC.

Cat. no. 7. Fibula of type B3 Pedde (Figs 17–18).

Acc. no. 2022-124; formerly 6.51.73.

Gift from Mr Necdet Uçkan on 17th of August 1973.⁴¹



Fig. 15. Fibula from Demre, cat. no. 6, acc. no. 2022-341 (photo. by Ü. Demirer, 2025).

³⁶ Records from the inventory registry book of the Museum Directorate of Antalya, sheet no. 12002.

³⁷ Caner 1983, 180–182.

³⁸ Pedde 2000, 176 and 180.

³⁹ Muscarella 2003, 235.

⁴⁰ Caner 1983, 182–184, nos. 1198 A–1207 A–G.

⁴¹ Records from the inventory registry book of the Regional Museum Directorate of Antalya, sheet no. 8899.

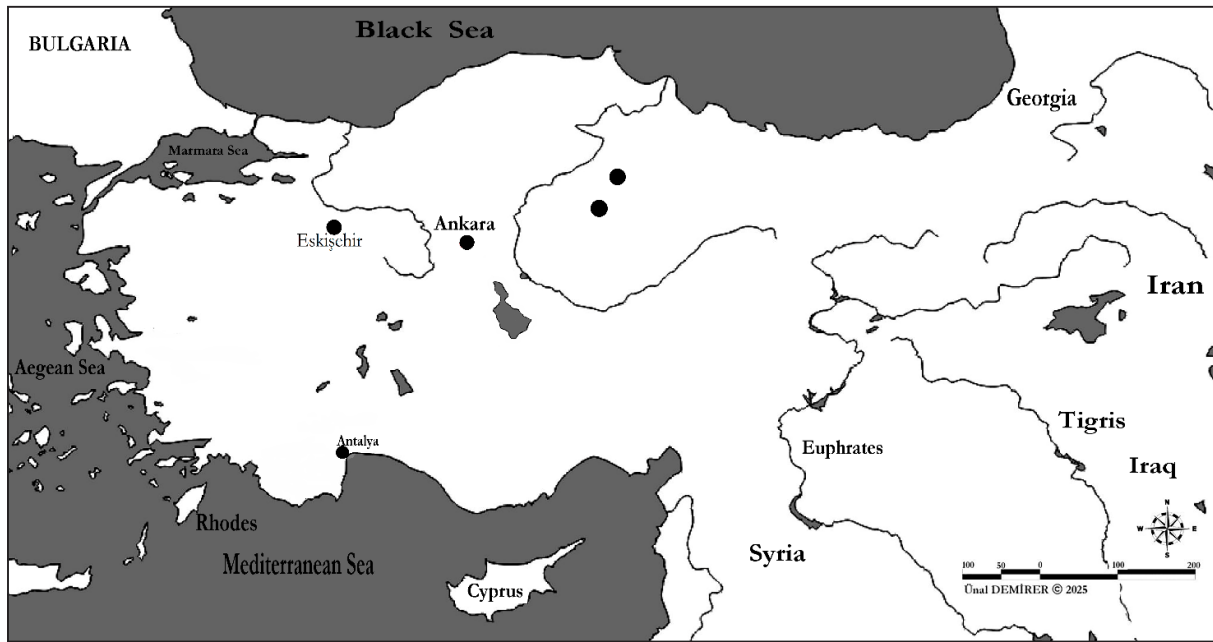


Fig. 16. Distribution of the fibulae of the type Caner V, 2 (drawn by Ü. Demirel, 2025, after Caner 1983, 182–184).

W., 49 mm, H., 44 mm; Th., 6–8 mm.

Semicircular arch with six tripartite disks separated by another smaller intermediate disk. Before the terminations on each side a cube or parallelepiped block, to which a truncated conical part is connected. In one of the blocks one can see traces of two of the five points arranged in a quiconic pattern.



Fig. 17. Fibula from Demre, cat. no. 7, acc. no. 2022-124 (photo. by Ü. Demirel, 2025).

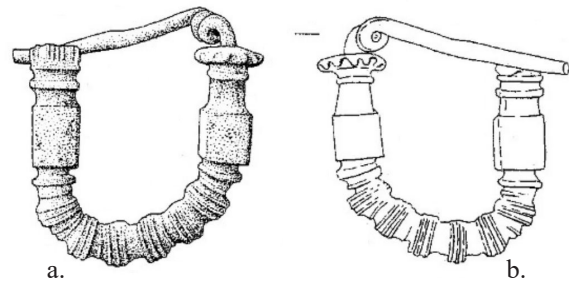


Fig. 18. The same fibula illustrated by E. Caner (after Caner 1983, no. 1146).

Blinkenberg type XII, 3; Pedde type B3. The specimen has already been published by Caner, in his type N III (no. 1146) dating to the 7th century BC, but after more than forty years the same fibula should be reinterpreted here in a new light. Caner himself observes that the predominant number of specimens of the Blinkenberg XII, 3 type comes from northern Syria, and so he hypothesizes that the fibulae of his group N III had oriental models.⁴² Pedde includes in his group B3 45 specimens (Fig. 19), none of which have terminations similar to ours, although typologically the arch is very similar in some cases. A curious detail of the fibulae of this group is that the hand-shaped stirrup always lacks the thumb.

The discovery of an Iron Age cemetery in Zagros, in an ancient Assyrian area, in the western Iranian province of Parsua, led to the recovery of a fibula of the same type from tomb A10 which is not identical.⁴³ There were two individuals in this tomb: the remains of the one of undetermined sex had been moved *post mortem*, while the other, which was superimposed, belonged to a female individual.⁴⁴ The fibula was placed inside a metal container above the pelvis of the deceased. Therefore, it is confirmed that these fibulae were worn, perhaps not only, by women.

⁴² Caner 1983, 166.

⁴³ Amelirad, Overlaet and Haerinck 2012, 45 and 48.

⁴⁴ Soltysiak, Azizi and Tawhidi 2018, 81.

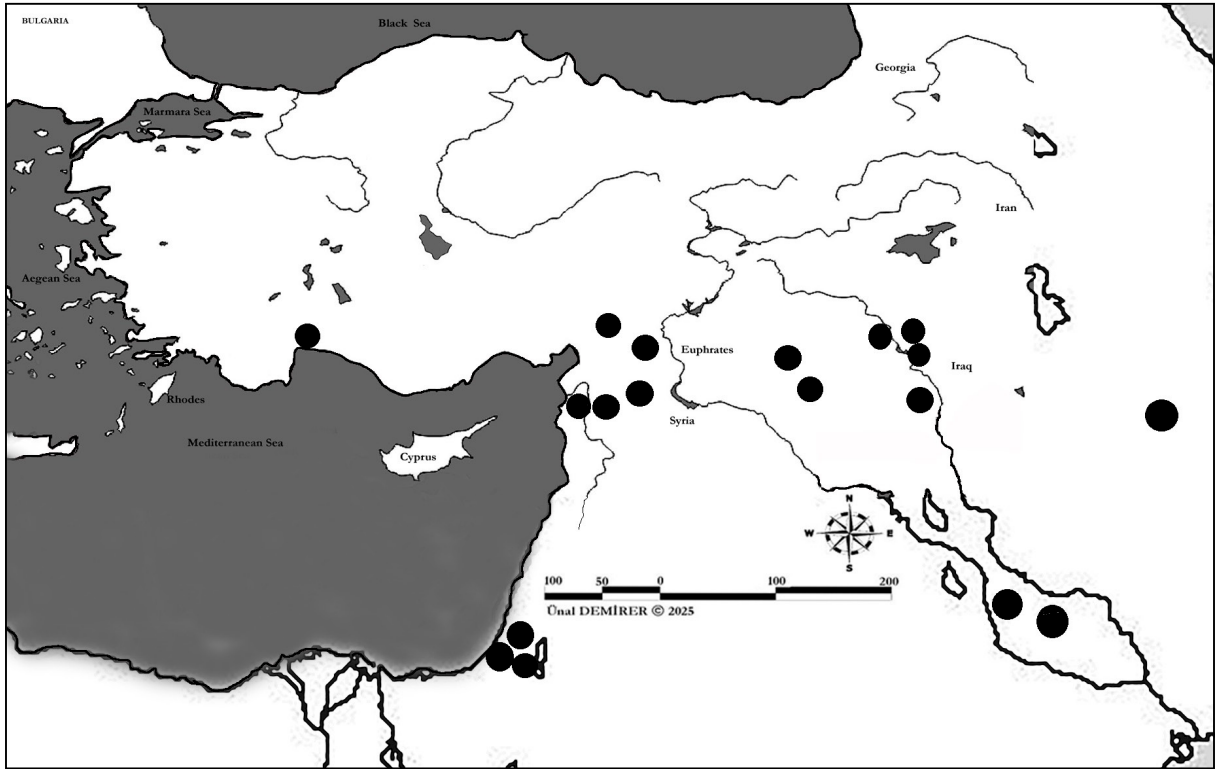


Fig. 19. Distribution of the fibulae of the group Pedde B3 with two new entries (drawn by Ü. Demirer, 2025, after Pedde 2000,141, with integrations).

The C¹⁴ analysis of a molar from the female burial (B) located at the top of the tomb determined a dating between 785 and 542 BC, with a probability of 95.4 %.⁴⁵

Another fibula was found in 2002 in tomb 23 of the city of Aššur.⁴⁶

The presence of this fibula in south-western Anatolia, therefore, would reveal some form of relationship with the Neo-Assyrian area, again, if it was locally found in Lycia.

Ref. Caner 1983, no. 1146.

Cat. no. 8. Fibula, Aucissa type (Figs 20a–b).

Acc. no. 2022-532; formerly 2003/397 (A).

Acquired from Mr Bekir Baş on 19th of November 2003 for 25.000.000 TL (= \$US 16) and registered by Mrs A. Esra Akça on 4th of December 2003.⁴⁷

W., 44 mm, H., 28 mm; Th., 1–3 mm.

Intact, but bent at both the bow and the pin.

Two authors of this paper have already dealt with the diffusion of Aucissa type fibulae in Anatolia, based on published material.⁴⁸ This specimen, which should certainly be added to others that are curated in various museum collections, increases the diffusion map that foresees a series of presences along the Anatolian coasts, primarily on the Aegean one on the West. Thus, our present fibula from Lycia is, for now, the thirteenth specimen known to us from Anatolia (Fig. 21).



Fig. 20. Fibula from Demre, cat. no. 8, acc. no. 2022-532 (photo. by Ü. Demirer, 2025).

⁴⁵ Radner, Amelirad and Azizi 2020, 105–106.

⁴⁶ Miglus 2002, 19, fig. 10.

⁴⁷ Records from the inventory registry book of the Museum Directorate of Antalya, sheet no. 14014.

⁴⁸ Kaya et al.2024, 492–493.

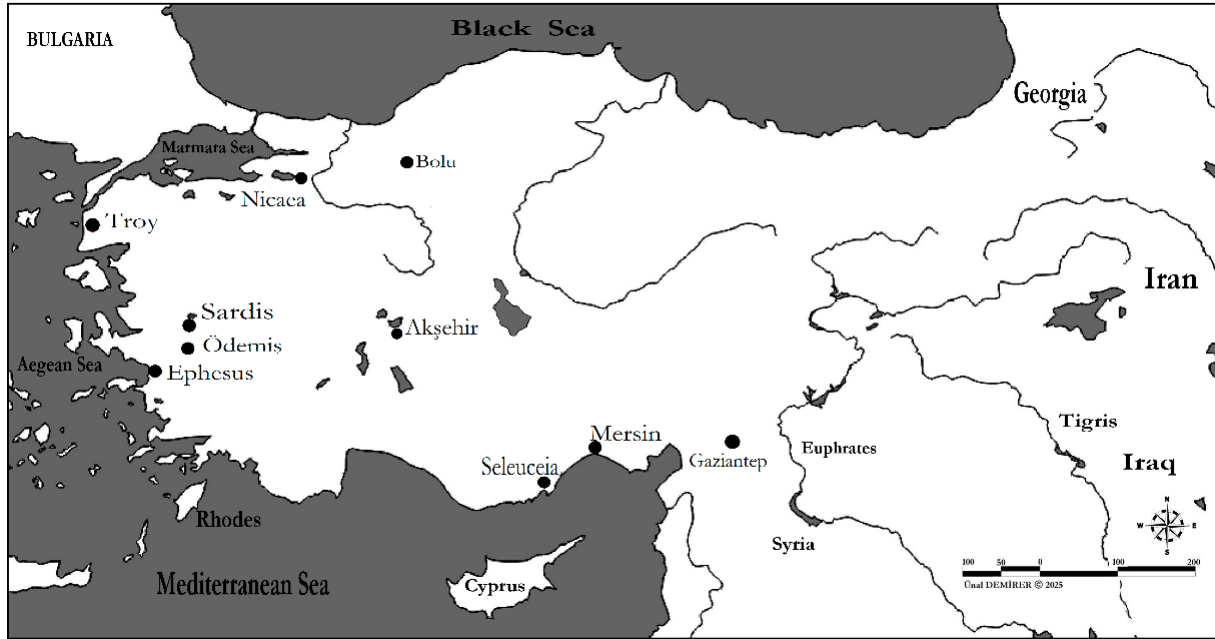


Fig. 21. Distribution of *Aucissa fibulae* in Türkiye (drawn by Ü. Demirer, 2025).

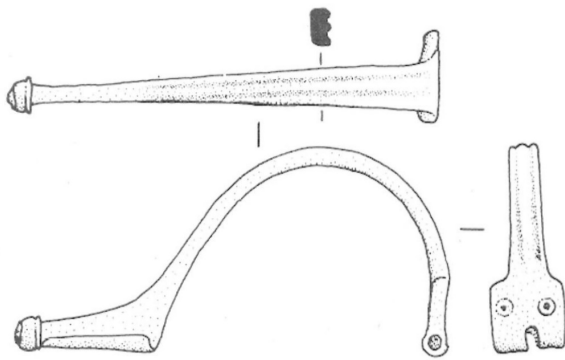


Fig. 22. Fibula of type Feugère 22 a2a (after Feugère 1985, 318, fig. 44).

Cat. no. 9. Enamelled fibula (Figs 23a–c)

Acc. no. 2022-151; formerly 4.3.77 (A).

Probably found in Elmalı, acquired from Mr Ömer Selçuk Gür (Antalya) on 15th of February 1977 for 1500 TL (= \$US 83) and registered on 15th of February 1977.⁵⁰

W., 55 mm, H., 14 mm; Th., 3–16 mm.

Fibula of type Riha 7,16⁵¹ and Feugère 26c1a.⁵² Within this last type M. Feugère has distinguished at least

⁴⁹ Feugère 1985, 318, fig. 44.

⁵⁰ Records from the inventory registry book of the Regional Museum Directorate of Antalya, sheet no. 15118.

⁵¹ Riha 1979, 192. Our fibula is particularly similar to her no. 133 which is part of a small group (nos. 1627–1635), and has close parallels with fibulae from Britain and Gaul. A sporadic example was found at Dura Europos in present-day Syria.

⁵² Feugère 1985, 358.

The fibula, the drawing of which is reproduced here at Fig. 22, is without a pin, and was acquired at the Istanbul market, with an alleged provenance from Antalya.⁴⁹ The proposed dating goes from the mid-1st century BC to the end of the reign of Augustus, i.e., AD 14.

The new example from Demre is dated from the middle Augustan period to the end of the Caligula era, i.e. AD 40s.

Ref. Feugère 1985, no. 1527.

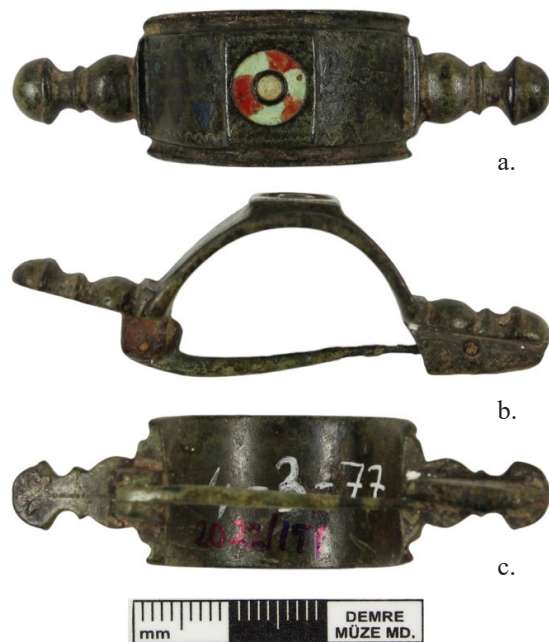


Fig. 23. Fibula from Demre, cat. no. 9, acc. no. 2022-151 (photo. by Ü. Demirer, 2025).

three variants, corresponding to three different production centres. According to Feugère, they can be large or small, or have a very thick arch.⁵³ Our specimen belongs to the group of larger fibulae.

Based on the most recent classification by Stijn Heeren and Lourens van der Feijst (2017), this type of fibulae belongs to 57h1 type,⁵⁴ both for its dimensions and for the shape of the arch and the ends, as well as for the distribution of the decoration.

Within the circle, in the centre of the square part, a decoration identical to that of the shield of the Moesiaci legion, i.e., the army at Aquileia. Nevertheless, the first mention of this legion seems to date back to the year AD 312, that is, at a time when our fibulae were probably no longer in usual production.

Ref. Our fibula is quoted in Feugère 1985, p. 365, no. 40, but not published.⁵⁵

Conclusions

As can be found in other museum collections in modern Türkiye, the fibulae, which were generally numerous for the Middle and Late Iron Ages between the 8th and early 6th century BC, disappear in entire Anatolia until they reappear only in the 1st century BC, except in the Galatian area, where there are examples dating from the first half of the 2nd century BC.⁵⁶

The questions, such as how these “Phrygian type” fibulae of the Iron Age should be interpreted in Lycian area, where and when they were produced, and most importantly by whom, remain for the future studies, some of which could be replied only through scientific provenance researches. Also, a detailed and more precise analysis for the Roman fibulae in Lycia can be undertaken only when the material grows in number.

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Permission to publish these nine fibulae in the Museum of Lycian Civilizations at Demre was granted by the Turkish General Directorate of Cultural Heritage and Museums, dated on 3rd of September 2024 and numbered as E-76252222-155.01.5622035, and by a written confirmation of the Museum Directorate of Demre, dated on 16th of September 2024 and numbered as E-70793822-155.01.5671035. The photos of the fibulae in this museum were taken by Ü. Demirel in 2024. They are not to scale. All of the maps were drawn by Ü. Demirel in 2025 as well.

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⁵³ Feugère 1985, 360.

⁵⁴ Heeren and van der Feijst 2017, 149–158.

⁵⁵ We thank A. Onçe for alerting us to the existence of this reference.

⁵⁶ Laflı, Buora and Kaya 2025, 146–150, cat. nos. 1–4 and 7.

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